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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM HIRED TO HELP RECRUIT EIU'S NEXT PRESIDENT

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees has hired a national search firm to coordinate the hiring of a new president for the university.

Heidrick & Struggles, executive search consultants from Washington, D.C., will assist an 11-member campus presidential search committee in evaluating and recruiting candidates for Eastern's next chief executive officer. They were one of two firms considered.

The new president will replace David Jorns who is retiring at the end of June 1999.

Susan Gilpin, BOT chairperson and search committee chair, said, "Heidrick & Struggles is one of the top search firms in the field. They are very experienced, and we are confident they will do an excellent job in facilitating the search process. They primarily will be responsible for assisting the search committee and presenting candidates to the university for its final decision."

Heidrick & Struggle's fee for conducting the search is \$50,000. Gilpin said, "This will be money well spent for all the knowledge, experience and work that they will add to the process."

Gilpin explained that the role of the university president has become more complex and demanding over the last 10 years. "We want to ensure that we get the best president for Eastern. Heidrick & Struggles will help to guarantee that this happens because of their

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industry connections and experience in working with search committees.”

She added that it is important in a search to be mindful of the time demands that participation puts on search committee members, all of whom have full-time jobs in addition to this committee. “By using an executive search firm, the committee’s meetings will be more focused and effective. Moreover, Heidrick & Struggles will be shouldering a substantial portion of the work which has previously been borne by others on campus. Because of their professionalism and expertise, this will be of great assistance and will produce a better search,” Gilpin said.

In addition to evaluating and recruiting candidates, the firm will provide extensive research on the backgrounds of candidates as well as their qualifications for the position of president. Gilpin explained that they will utilize a network of established contacts in the academic field to recruit and screen candidates.

One of the first steps that Heidrick & Struggles will be undertaking is a series of meetings with the campus community to solicit input on the unique needs of Eastern. These meetings will take place before the end of the semester. They plan on attending search committee meetings and other on-campus meetings as requested and will provide committee members with status reports on their activities during the search.

At the January board meeting, Gilpin appointed trustees Nate Anderson and Dr. Mack W. Hollowell to serve on the search committee. The remaining committee members, representing faculty, staff, administration, students and alumni, are expected to be announced at the next Board of Trustees meeting on April 27.